

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

ANNUAL REPORT

On the **HEALTH** of the
Urban Sanitary District of the Borough
of Bacup during 1919,

— BY —

J. PERCIVAL BROWN,

M.B., Ch.B., Vict.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer.

BACUP:

Martin Holt, Printer, &c., Plantation Street.

THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Consists of the following Members:

*THE MAYOR (*ex-officio*)

*Chairman : MR. COUN. J. H. LORD, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman : ALDERMAN SIR J. H. MADEN, J.P., C.C.

MR. ALDERMAN E. LORD,

„ COUNCILLOR ASHWORTH,

„ *COUNCILLOR BARCROFT,

„ *COUNCILLOR BARON,

„ COUNCILLOR COUPE,

„ *COUNCILLOR GLEDHILL,

„ *COUNCILLOR LAMBERT,

„ COUNCILLOR STEVENSON,

„ *COUNCILLOR WHITEHEAD,

*Members of Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee,
with :—

MRS. M. HARGREAVES, MRS. A. A. HARGREAVES,
 MRS. A. HEYS.

The Maternity Sub-Committee consists of the lady members
only, with Mrs. M. Hargreaves as Chairman.



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1919.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Bacup.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you with my Annual Report for 1919, which will be fuller than recent reports, though last year I reviewed some of the effects of the war, also inserted new tables A and C, which I consider of such value for reference that I shall continue their use.

Memo. 9 and Circular 66 *re* preparation of such medical reports and the use of the press, as well as circulars, posters, etc., from time to time have been carried out in this district, and though during the war much was condensed, yet everything necessary to keep up public interest in health matters was done. I must specially mention what I owe to the local press for dealing lucidly with circulars for the public and to your Chairman's remarks in the Council as well as my own reports, points which the Ministry of Health in the above urge all authorities to carry out.

Each year, as was my father's custom, as well as at times in Committee, I have dealt specially with some special subjects and one of them this year covers a 25 year period, which I will deal with under the changes seen in mortality and the treatment of children in that most important age period—1 to 5 years old ; for those children as well as infants and mothers are now specially included under the Government Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

In Table A Vital Statistics are corrected for 1918, and those for 1919 are provisionally correct for report purposes, though the Registrar General's final report may alter one or two figures.

The rateable value of the Borough on April 1st, 1919, was £90,368.

The Registrar General's latest population estimates are used—21,061 for birth rate and 18,797 for the death rate, to which Table A 1918 rates are corrected.

The births were 274—males 155, females 119, being at the rate of 13·0 per 1000 birth rate (13·1 in 1918). There were 28 illegitimate births—males 18, females 10.

The provisional birth rate of England and Wales for 1919 was 18·5 per 1000.

The corrected deaths were 288—males 147, females 141, being 15·3 per 1000.

The provisional death rate for England and Wales for 1919 was 13·8 per 1000.

The deaths occurred in the following age groups :—

Under 1 year	...	...	28
1 and under 2 years	...	...	7
2 „ „ 5 „ „	...	...	1
5 „ „ 15 „ „	...	...	8
15 „ „ 25 „ „	...	...	12
25 „ „ 45 „ „	...	...	37
45 „ „ 65 „ „	...	...	89
65 years and upwards	...	...	106
Total			288

The causes of death are in Table A.

The Infectious Diseases notified or ascertained are in Table B, which covers the last five years.

ENTERIC FEVER.

There were no cases during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were six cases with no deaths.

MEASLES.

There were 45 cases, 25 of which were in first three months of the year. There were 2 deaths. Several were sporadic cases traceable to visits to other towns. Cases were in following age groups :—under 1 year, 5, (1 death); 1 and under 5 years, 29, (1 death); 5 and under 15 years, 10; 15 and under 25 years, 1. Cases of school age were very few in the mixed schools.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Very few cases and no deaths.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Six cases in the practice of two midwives. Three cases went to hospital for treatment. The early calling in of a doctor for any slight discharge from an infant's eyes is extremely important not only during first week of life, but later, as the following definition of Ophthalmia Neonatorum well points out—"to be notified any case of purulent discharge from the eye of an infant within 21 days of its birth."

CHICKEN-POX.

Forty-five cases, mostly prevalent in June and December.

VACCINATION.

I again urge the importance of this question. In 1918 there were 54 vaccinations, and in 1919, 48, mostly under 1 year of age.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Epidemic Catarrh and Influenza, as well as other disease posters and circulars have been used as required. Many diseases (such a mixture as Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia, Consumption, Sore Throat, Ordinary Cold in the head, Epidemic Catarrh, and Influenza) are spread by discharges from the mouth and nose, as well as ear discharge, all of which easily infect toys, pillows, handkerchiefs, etc. Germs are spread over a wide area when coughing or sneezing, therefore don't let anyone cough in your face. Filthy people who spit about the place are a source of danger. Sucking pens, pencils, toys, shuttles, or tools used by other people is dangerous. The joint use of pipes or several people drinking out of a bottle may convey besides the above diseases, sores and even Venereal diseases.

Whooping Cough and Measles are difficult to prevent spreading, owing to carelessness in many cases, as they are very infectious when child is thought to be developing the disease, on which account parents should prevent mixing of children when suspected to be starting with such diseases.

Infection through the nose and mouth is such a common one for many infectious diseases that they can be considerably lessened if the above precautions are taken.

Body-lice and Scabies, or Itch can be the means of transmitting certain diseases, and were dealt with in Circular P.H. 3, 1919, to which press gave publicity. For many

years, owing to our Cleansing and Disinfecting Station, such cases have been actively dealt with.

Owing to war conditions a great increase of Itch (both mild and severe) cases has been noticed amongst adults and school children. If treated properly early on and people recognise the danger of it spreading, also causing serious sores on the body, it can be cured without much difficulty. It is a disease that has affected all classes, and serious epidemics have been reported in many towns.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Ministry wishing to know if it is well carried out, I can say that I consider it is. Freedom from sudden death in children, and small number of deaths 1 to 5 years old are a good guide. There is only one disease which at times, judging from children seen with deformities in schools, is likely to be overlooked, and that is a very mild case of Acute Poliomyelitis or Infantile Paralysis. Such a one easy to overlook when perhaps a very young child has a mild, obscure feverish attack, seen by doctor for a few days and later on some slight weakness in arm or leg is noticed.

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE REPORTS:

“COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.—There are 3 Registered Common Lodging-houses in the Borough and the Police continue their daily visits to these premises.”

“FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.—25 samples of food and drugs were obtained and submitted to the Borough Analyst for analysis under the above mentioned Acts. All the samples were certified as genuine, but one sample of milk was commented upon as being of poor quality. Three samples were ‘informal.’”

THE BOROUGH SURVEYOR REPORTS:

"No new streets have been paved ;

No new houses have been built ;

56 houses have been connected to the town's water supply ;

A new sewer has been put in at Kiln Terrace, Stacksteads."

LABORATORY REPORTS.

Prof. Delépine has examined 19 specimens of Spectrum for Tubercle Bacilli, 1 being positive.

The large number of negative cases is accounted for by many doctors in several cases sending specimens early in Bronchitis cases or Pneumonia cases clearing up, but suspicious of Phthisis beginning, which one is pleased to see.

Some of the Phthisis cases had positive examinations in Naval and Military Hospitals, also some of the suspected negative cases developed Phthisis later, and Sputum examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary with positive results.

THE RAG AND FLOCK ACTS AND REGULATIONS, 1912.

There were no dealers in such Flocks in district.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

These include Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Diseases of Respiratory Organs except Tuberculosis, and caused 60 deaths belonging to the Borough, at the rate of 3·19 per 1000, which is below the average for the district. Bronchitis 46, Pneumonia 11, other Respiratory Diseases 3. There is no doubt that Pneumonia in many cases is an

infectious disease, so sputum and handkerchiefs should be disinfected as well as ordinary precautions taken. Table C gives particulars as regards ages and time of year of cases in the Borough and table below is a summary with 1918 figures in brackets.

Deaths in the Borough, grouped according to age.

	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards
Influenza :								
21 (37)	—	1 (0)	— (3)	— (0)	3 (6)	6 (15)	8 (10)	3 (3)
Bronchitis :								
(Primary)								
44 (46)	7 (1)	3 (3)	1 (3)	— (2)	— (1)	5 (2)	13 (11)	15 (23)
Pn'monia :								
(Primary)								
8 (45)	1 (1)	— (5)	— (6)	1 (6)	1 (6)	— (8)	4 (10)	1 (4)

Under 45 years of age—there were 30 deaths in these groups against 68 in 1918.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

This caused 11 deaths according to certificate, though it must in many cases have been associated with Cerebral Apoplexy, Heart Disease, Bronchitis and Arterio-Sclerosis. The climate here is bad for such cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Phthisis 9 deaths, Tuberculous Meningitis 1, other Tuberculous Diseases 6, a total of 16 deaths, the lowest ever recorded. I consider that the Dispensary, Sanatoria and Hospital arrangements are doing very good work, cases being dealt with in their early stages.

INFLUENZA.

I have prepared Table C, which I shall continue to use, as I believe it gives useful information of all deaths each

week in the Borough, also of age and sex, those from Influenza, Bronchitis and Pneumonia in the Borough.

Chiefly prevalent end of February and during March (five weeks), when 24 deaths out of 74 during the year from Influenza occurred. Bronchitis and Pneumonia were in the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th month. Centre of the town and Todmorden Road district chiefly affected. From March 3rd to 17th Sharneyford Council Mixed and Infant School had to be closed, due to the three diseases, Influenza, Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

Difficulty was experienced in getting general hospital treatment for Influenza and Pneumonia, and arrangements were made with the Haslingden Union Infirmary, one case being treated there. Posters were put up as required and this year I do not consider it necessary to say more except that Prophylactic Serum is now available, of which public notice has been given.

Deaths in the Borough.

Year	Total	Influenza	Bronchitis (Primary)	Pneumonia (Primary)	Total
1916	297	5	47	10	62
1917	271	2	43	16	61
1918	320	37	46	45	128
1919	250	21	44	8	74

Deaths in the Borough, 1919, according to sex.

	Influenza	Bronchitis (Primary)	Pneumonia (Primary)
Males	8 (16)	22 (23)	4 (26)
Females	13 (21)	22 (23)	4 (19)
Total	21 (37)	44 (46)	8 (45)

Year 1918 in Brackets.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (VENEREAL REGULATIONS) 1916.

Many cases are being treated at the Centre.

Spectral lectures were given during the year, but were very poorly attended, in spite of advertising, etc., but I feel sure many persons read the reports in the local press with good results.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the public that the mouths of many patients who appear well are highly infectious, and it is dangerous to use a pipe after anyone, also I still find that at parties people even drink after each other from bottles of soda water, etc., and thus may contract the disease.

THE HOUSING QUESTION AND POPULATION.

During the war it was difficult to say how the population would be affected, and what need of new houses there would be, especially as this was not a big engineering or munition centre, and the outlook was how trade would affect us. Works have since extended and new ones opened.

In 1911, out of 5,872 houses, 5,572 were occupied and 300 empty, whilst in 1919, out of 5,857 houses, 5,725 were occupied and 132 were empty. The empty houses now are scarcely likely to be occupied again, being of the worst type. In 1911 the census population was 22,318, about 4 persons per house. Though the birth rate has gone down, it has been general, so that new families have not brought larger families into the district, as is well shown by the fall in the number of school children during recent years. As in many cases two families have joined at a house, I should still consider perhaps slightly only under 4 per house the average:— $4 \times 5,725 = 22,900$, say about 22,500 present population.

Dwelling-houses inspected for purposes of the Housing Acts, 300. Dwelling-houses specially inspected under Sect. 17 of the Act of 1909, and considered unfit for human habitation, 52, for which representation made to Authority for Closing Order. Closing Orders left over until new houses ready; 10 of these houses closed and made into garage and stables.

Housing Committee doing all it can to supply demand for *a*—living room, scullery, larder, and coals, three bed-rooms, bath-room and w.c., separate; *b*—Parlour, living room, scullery, larder, and coals, three bed-rooms, bath-room, and separate w.c.

Special report and schemes were prepared for the Housing Commissioners.

MATERNITY CENTRE.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, MORTALITY 1 AND UNDER 5 YEARS AND BIRTH RATE. I have prepared the Table below which covers 25 years, a period I have closely followed as a student and in practice here, besides assisting in M.O.H. work before my own appointment. I consider it a very satisfactory record of progress as regards mortality, for though figures for 1915 and 1919 are only slightly better than 1910 and 1914, they were war years, during which we had serious epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough, not all the deaths from which were certified as such (to which reference was made in 1918 report) also Influenza.

Average Infantile Mortality per 1000	Average Mortality per 1000 1 year and under 5 years	Average Mortality per 1000 from birth to under 5 years	Total Births	
109	69·1	= 178·1	1577	1915 to 1919
112·6	68·9	= 181·5	2189	1910 to 1914
119·4	71·2	= 190·6	2584	1905 to 1909
146·0	102·4	= 248·4	2655	1900 to 1905
168·0	103·	= 271	2863	1895 to 1899

There has been a great rise in illegitimacy rate. Besides these causes, the condition of children due to war was fully gone into in my 1918 report, in which year there was a very high war mortality for those under 5 years. This year has been the lowest by half on record for deaths 1 and under 5 years, there being 1 and under 2 years 7, 2 and under 5 years 1.

There has been a great change in the way children are looked after 1 and under 5 years, not only during the Maternity and Child Welfare period, but for some years previously as a result of Medical Inspection of School Children, so that a larger proportion enter upon school life having had enlarged tonsils and adenoids attended to. 15 to 20 years ago, it was very difficult to get people to see the value of such operation, and many seeing to-day the good results of the few cases, parents are much more willing for operation or breathing exercises in suitable cases. During the whole period of the table the population has only varied a thousand or two and the fall in birth rate is very marked.

The rise in Illegitimate Birth Rate is serious and was in 1919 10.2 per 100, 7.91 in 1918, 4.10 in 1917, 3.70 in 1916. The County rates were in 1918 5.51, 1917 4.48 per cent. It is certainly above the average and needs bringing to public notice, when one baby in every ten is illegitimate. The outlook is black when one considers inherited Venereal diseases.

Infantile mortality rate was 102 per 1000. 28 deaths, male 13, female 15. I consider the infantile mortality really the best we have ever had, for the male births were more in excess in proportion to females than in any other year, and male children are more difficult to rear. Particulars are given in Table IV. In the third quarter of the year only two deaths under 1 year.

Ten deaths were in the first month after birth, at the rate of 36·49 per 1000, very satisfactory for an industrial town, especially when compared with the table below.

Death-rate in first month after birth per 1000 births, children of :—

Medical Practitioners	...	...	...	20·2
Highest, upper and middle classes	...	...	...	30·2
General Labourers	...	...	...	47·1
Costermongers	....	...	...	49·6
Railway Pointsmen, Masons' Labourers				51·1

Stillbirths notified (after 28th week) were :—

		Males	Females
1916	...	15	8
1917	...	6	6
1918	...	7	7
1918	...	8	9

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is much appreciated by the mothers, there being 386 attendances of children against 308 in 1918. In bad weather, from November onwards, attendance fell off. Advice is given as regards feeding, clothing and training of children, and when doctors request, as they do at times, arrangements are made for hospital treatment. Patterns of infants' and young children's clothes are sold at a nominal price. The Orders of the Ministry of Health *re* supply of milk are carried out. Virol is supplied at cost price and also free in necessitous cases. The Centre is open from 2-30 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, when I attend as Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer. Nurse Dixon, the Health Visitor, is well in touch with the mothers, and by having a good knowledge of them and the district, has got through a record year's work, the babies and children visited being :—

Once,	180	—equals	180 visits
Twice,	162	„	324 „
Three times,	68	„	204 „
Four times,	30	„	120 „
Five times,	20	„	100 „
Six times,	12	„	72 „

Total babies visited	472	requiring	1000 visits
1918 „ „	449	„	908 „
1917 „ „	402	„	750 „

These figures are likely to increase, as during last quarter of 1919 there was a great rise in birth rate, continued too into early part of 1920.

Breast feeding is encouraged as far as possible. Milk when necessary is supplied to mothers as well as children.

100 babies	were breast fed	for 9 to 12 months
180 „ „	„	„ about 3 months
35 „ „	„	„ about 1 month
31	were bottle fed	from birth.

Mothers going to work accounts for a large number giving up breast feeding after a month or two.

'The Baby Show, Mothers' Day and Exhibition of everything connected with child life, took place on Tuesday, July 15th, in Stubbylee Hall and Grounds. The Maternity Committee with Nurse Dixon were responsible for what was a great success. Lady Maden and the Mayoress took great interest in it, being helped by many willing workers. Dr. Mabel May, of Rochdale, was the judge. It being our first effort, many mothers were a bit backward in entering their children, though they turned up in crowds to see the Exhibition, the day being ideal.

There were 20 entries classified as 1st Class 8, 2nd Class 8, Third Class 7.

Previously to this we had the Daily Sketch Competition. The standard of marking was a very high one and in the preliminary marking we obtained four 1st Class, eight 2nd Class, and eight 3rd Class. It was only by a narrow margin that we were left out of the first heat. I consider that our show and the Daily Sketch did an enormous amount of good in getting mothers to see and talk about points where marks were lost.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Bacup is a very hilly district, situated on the Western spurs of the Pennine Hills. The River Irwell rises at Cliviger, just outside the Northern boundary of the Borough, and flows about 5 miles through its district. The elevation varies from 700 to 1,500 feet above sea level. The main roads follow the contours chiefly of the Irwell and other streams, so that much of the property is on one side down to the river or stream, and on the other back to the land, which means that there are not a large number of level districts with rows of houses. In other parts the houses are built in rows up the slopes from the river which causes many of the streets to be very steep. Though these conditions have made building difficult, and not allowed of a proper laying out of the town, there are advantages in good drainage, as well as an atmosphere that is never stagnant.

The average population is about 3.5 per acre. The central parts of Bacup and Stacksteads are well populated, whilst upland and moorland parts are sparsely populated.

The geological formation is millstone grit, with thick beds of clay above, so that the soil is cold and damp.

The new housing schemes will tend to open out more level districts with good roads to them, making such local districts adjoining available for works also in some cases. When the worst types of houses are unoccupied there will in some cases be land better suited for works.

Chief occupations are cotton weaving and spinning, printing work, slipper, shoe and clog manufacturing, box making, woollen industry, collieries (mountain mines), and stone quarries; besides these there are tan yards, glove works, and many small firms engaged in special branches of the above. The question of slipper workers being liable to Phthisis has been gone into, but it was difficult to prove as many persons in delicate health or starting with Phthisis went into it as a light occupation.

WATER SUPPLY. There is an abundant and constant supply of excellent water belonging to the Corporation. Owing to this the Borough is able to sell to neighbouring districts and is also in an extremely fortunate position to supply an increased population as well as works, etc. Over two-thirds of the population use the water.

POLLUTION OF RIVER AND STREAM is dealt with by the Mersey and Irwell River Board.

SEWERS AND DRAINING. The Borough is sewered and drained, the disposal being at Ewood Bridge under a Joint Bacup, Rawtenstall and Haslingden Board. The method is precipitation filtration and irrigation of land. Conversion of pail closets to water carriage system is being carried out not as quickly as one could like owing to war and after war conditions, etc.

SCAVENGING is done efficiently by our own scavengers. Ashes removed weekly and deposited on tips. Particulars are in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH. The Sanitary Inspector and myself have inspected the Borough as required in connection with nuisances, unsanitary condition, and the housing question, much of which is included in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

OFFENSIVE TRADES carried on are :—

Fellmonger	1	Fat Melter	1
Tripe Boiler	1	Knacker	1

SCHOOLS. Sanitary condition is generally satisfactory and as School Medical Officer I am well in touch with everything. Owing to Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Sharneyford Council Infant and Mixed School was closed from March 3rd to 17th.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. For Small-pox a Joint Hospital at Sourhall of 32 beds. Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, and Cerebro Spinal Fever Cases are sent to the Bury Joint Board Infectious Hospital. Influenza and Pneumonia—arrangements made with Haslingden Union Infirmary.

Maternity cases where necessary are removed by Motor Ambulance to St. Mary's Maternity Hospital, Manchester.

For general Infirmaries we are well served by Manchester Royal Infirmary, St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, Rochdale Infirmary, and Children's Hospital, Pendlebury; the Motor Ambulance being always available when required.

I wish to specially thank Coun. J. H. Lord, J.P., Chairman of the Health Committee, also the Members of that Committee and its Sub-Committees, besides the Housing Committee for their appreciative co-operation in my work,

concerning so many Committees all working together for the health of the public.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. PERCIVAL BROWN,

M.B., Ch.B., Vict., M.O.H.

Burwood House,
Bacup,
Feby. 27th, 1920.

LIST OF ACTS PROMOTED BY AND OF THOSE
ADOPTED BY THE CORPORATION OF BACUP.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act	1890
Local Government Board's Provisional Orders	
Confirmation (No. 7) Act	1890
do. do. (No. 10) Act	1890
Bacup Corporation Water Act... ..	1894
L. G. B's. Provisional Orders Confirmation Act	
(No. 19 Act)	1897
Bacup Corporation Water Act... ..	1898
do. do. Act... ..	1906
Public Health Acts Amendment Act	1907
Sections 18, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 31, and 33 of Part II.	
„ 34, 45, 49 and 51 of Part III.	
„ 55, 56, 59, 60, 62 and 66 of Part IV.	
L. G. B's. Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4)	
Act	1912
L. G. B's. Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 16)	
Act	1913
L. G. B's. Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 3)	
Act	1919

TABLE A.—Corrected for all Births and Deaths belonging to Borough.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	ESTIMATED POPULATION.				
	1915— 21,325 for Births and Deaths	1916— 22,304 for Births 20,500 for Deaths	1917— 21,442 for Births 19,235 for Deaths	1918— 21,442 for Births 19,235 for Deaths	1919— 21,061 for Births 18,797 for Deaths
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	...	...
Small Pox .. ...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	6	15	1	8	2
Scarlet Fever	3	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	...	17	...
Diphtheria and Croup	4	...	...	...	1
Influenza	6	6	3	40	24
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary					
Tuberculosis)	19	20	14	18	9
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	2	1	1	1
Other Tuberculous					
Diseases	8	2	7	...	6
Cancer					
(malignant disease)...	26	15	29	22	22
Rheumatic Fever	2	1	...	...	...
Meningitis	1	...	2	1	...
Organic Heart Disease	26	39	39	37	26
Bronchitis	50	50	44	41	46
Pneumonia (all forms)	23	13	11	49	11
Other diseases of					
respiratory organs ...	4	3	3	3	3
Diarrhœa & Enteritis...	5	1	...	2	2
Appendicitis					
and Typhlitis	1	2	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	1	...	1
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and					
Bright's Disease	22	12	13	10	11
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and					
diseases of Pregnancy					
and Parturition ... ..	...	2	1	3	2
Congenital Debility					
and Malformation,					
including Premature					
Birth	13	13	17	23	13
Violent Deaths					
(excluding Suicide)...	8	7	4	5	8
Suicide ... ..	...	1	4	1	...
Other Defined Diseases	125	137	121	103	92
Diseases ill-defined					
or unknown	8	2	2	1	7
Totals	362	344	320	385	288
Total Births	382	351	292	278	274
Infantile Mortality	99	99	102	147	102
Birth-rate	16·9	18·7	13·6	13·1	13·0
Death-rate	16·9	16·7	16·6	20·4	15·3
England } P'tile M'tality	110	91	97	97	89
and } Birth-rate ...	21·8	21·6	17·8	17·7	18·5
Wales } Death-rate...	14·8	14·0	14·4	17·6	13·8

TABLE B.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	Treated in Hospital
Enteric Fever	2	3	5	2	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	57	12	19	13	6	—
Diphtheria	10	11	3	—	5	—
Erysipelas	27	36	22	25	25	—
Chicken-pox	92	40	111	56	45	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	6	3	3	6	3
Measles	—	429	22	471	44	—
German Meas'les	—	5	23	8	—	—
Phthisis	30	31	15	19	21	18
Non-Pulmonary Tub'culosis	42	34	25	13	12	1
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	2	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	*2	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	40	1

* Discharged from H.M. Forces.—Infected overseas.

TABLE C.

MALES.													FEMALES.												
Deaths from I. B. & P. *	Deaths from all causes	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards								
		I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.	I. B. P.								
		I.	B.	P.	I.	B.	P.	I.	B.	P.	I.	B.	P.	I.	B.	P.	I.	B.	P.						
1st week of year ending Jan. 4	1	2																							
2nd " " " 11	4	8																							
3rd " " " 18	2	4																							
4th " " " 25	2	5																							
5th " " Feby. 1	1	6																							
6th " " " 8	1	9																							
7th " " " 15	2	8																							
8th " " " 22	5	8																							
9th " " " 22	8	8																							
10th " " March 1	9	9																							
11th " " " 8	4	7																							
12th " " " 15	6	9																							
13th " " " 22	2	7																							
14th " " " 29	4	6																							
15th " " April 5	4	14																							
16th " " " 12	1	5																							
17th " " " 19	4	7																							
18th " " " 26	0	3																							
19th " " May 3	2	7																							
20th " " " 10	0	1																							
21st " " " 17	0	0																							
22nd " " " 24	0	6																							
23rd " " " 31	1	4																							
24th " " June 7	0	4																							
25th " " " 14	0	6																							
26th " " " 21	1	6																							
27th " " " 28	0	3																							
28th " " July 5	0	2																							
29th " " " 12	1	5																							
30th " " " 19	0	3																							
31st " " " 26	1	4																							
32nd " " Aug. 2	1	1																							
33rd " " " 9	1	3																							
34th " " " 16	1	4																							
35th " " " 23	1	4																							
36th " " " 30	2	6																							
37th " " Sept. 6	0	3																							
38th " " " 13	1	3																							
39th " " " 20	0	4																							
40th " " " 27	0	4																							
41st " " Oct. 4	0	3																							
42nd " " " 11	1	5																							
43rd " " " 18	2	7																							
44th " " " 25	0	8																							
45th " " Nov. 1	0	3																							
46th " " " 8	0	0																							
47th " " " 15	1	3																							
48th " " " 22	1	5																							
49th " " " 29	1	2																							
50th " " Dec. 6	0	4																							
51st " " " 13	0	4																							
52nd " " " 20	1	4																							
52nd " " " 27	0	3																							
I. I. I. 2 3 2 3 7 2 I 10 6 I I I 3 I 3 2 5 6 2 2 5 I																									
* I. - Influenza. B. - Primary Bronchitis. P. - Pneumonia.																									

* I.—Influenza. B.—Primary Bronchitis. P.—Primary Pneumonia.

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY.
NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks
All causes	Certified	...	...	...	8	2	..
	Uncertified	...	...	...	..	..	..
{ Small-pox					..	..	..
{ Chicken-pox					..	..	..
{ Measles					..	..	..
{ Scarlet Fever					..	..	..
{ Whooping-cough					..	..	..
{ Diphtheria and Croup...					..	..	..
{ Erysipelas					..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis					..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis					..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases					..	..	..
{ Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)					..	..	..
{ Convulsions					..	..	..
{ Laryngitis					..	..	..
{ Bronchitis					..	..	..
{ Pneumonia (all forms)...					..	..	..
{ Diarrhœa					..	..	..
{ Enteritis					..	..	..
{ Gastritis...					..	..	..
{ Syphilis					..	..	..
{ Rickets					..	..	..
{ Suffocation, overlying					..	..	..
{ Injury at birth					..	..	..
{ Atelectasis					1	..	..
{ Congenital Malformations					3	1	..
{ Premature birth					1	..	..
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus					3	..	..
{ Other Causes					..	1	..
Totals					8	2	..

Nett Births in the Year { legitimate, Males 137, Females 10
illegitimate, Males 18, Females 10

DURING THE YEAR 1919.

VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
...	10	7	3	4	4	28
...
...
...	...	...	1	...	...	1
...
...
...
...
...
...	...	...	...	...	1	1
...	...	1	1	3	2	7
...	...	...	...	1	1	2
...
...	...	2	...	...	...	2
...
...
...	1	...	...	...	...	1
...	4	...	...	...	...	4
...	1	1	...	...	...	2
...	3	3	1	...	...	7
...	1	...	...	...	...	1
...	10	7	3	4	4	28

Nett Deaths in the Year of {

 legitimate infants, Males 12, Females 13

 illegitimate infants, Males 1, Females 2.

Borough



of Bacup.

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Sanitary Inspector,

Arthur E. Barnes,

A.M.R.S. Inst. (by exam.); Dip. R.I.P.H.;
Member of Incorp. Assoc. San. Inspectors;
Hons. Cert. Plumbing, Hygiene, &c.

For the Year ended December 31st, 1919.

BACUP:

Martin Holt, Printer, &c., Plantation Street.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit my Eighteenth Annual Report, giving details of the work done by the Sanitary Department during the year 1919.

From the perusal of this Report it will be seen that a large amount of work is being done, when it is considered that the work of the Sanitary Department increases each year and additional duties are being put upon us.

SUMMARY OF WORK.

Visits and Re-visits to Houses	...	...	...	1893
Notices and Letters served	...	...	...	315
Workshop Inspections	...	...	...	158
Slaughter-houses and Offensive Trade Inspections				366
Cowsheds Inspections	...	...	...	184
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	91
Drains Tested (by Smoke)	...	...	...	4
Complaints received	...	...	...	119
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	21
Visits paid to Infected Houses	...	...	...	279
Steam Disinfector used on 29 occasions.				

DRAINS TESTED (by Smoke).

Drains at 3 dwelling-houses and 1 public building have been tested by smoke; defects were found in each case.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Frequent inspections have been made of premises and shops where food is prepared or kept for sale; the food which came under my observation was found to be sound but not of the quality usually sold in our Borough. I believe we shall be supplied with a better quality of meat when our butchers are free to buy their cattle in the open market.

The whole of the Butchers, Fishmongers, Fruiterers, and other tradesmen's premises have been kept under close and frequent supervision; also, the Market has been visited twice weekly.

UN SOUND FOOD DESTROYED.

One Carcase of Cow (Tuberculosis).			
Ham and Bacon	...	...	336 lbs.
Beef (small pieces)...	...	...	28½ lbs.
Three Livers			
Boiled Hams (Trimnings)			37 lbs.
21 Tins of Condensed Milk			
6 Tins of Boiled Beef	...		36 lbs.
18-1lb. Tins	...		18 lbs.
5 Tins of Ox Tongues	...		30 lbs.
4 Cheeses	...	...	288 lbs.
Pears	...	...	336 lbs.

During the year I carried out some experiments in sterilizing a carcase of cow in the steam disinfecter so as to

render same suitable for poultry food. Sterilization was most satisfactory and the food was disposed of to a poultry keeper, who stated it was excellent, a small charge being made for sterilization.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

During the war, slaughtering of cattle was chiefly done in two slaughter-houses conveniently situated for our Borough. From a sanitary, economic and humanitarian point of view, if this practice was continued during peace times it would be better both for the butchers and the town, and the two slaughter-houses which have been used could be adapted for the purposes. This could be done by the butchers themselves without any expense to the Borough. Since the Armistice butchers have been using other slaughter-houses in the Borough.

Fifty permits have been granted during the year allowing persons to slaughter the following animals on premises not licensed as slaughter-houses, viz.: 66 Pigs and 3 Cows. One cannot supervise these premises as satisfactorily as the slaughter-houses, still we have some knowledge when and where the slaughtering takes place.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number on Register—	Tripe Boilers	...	2
„	„ Fat Melter	...	1
„	„ Knacker's Yard	...	1
„	„ Fellmonger	...	1

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There were 15 shops in the Borough for the sale of Fried Fish and Chip Potatoes. During the year some shops which had been closed during the war have begun

cooking these food-stuffs, and provided good and sound materials are used and the cooking carried out in a satisfactory manner, no objections can be taken to these places.

POTTED MEAT AND SAUSAGE MAKERS.

During the year the premises in which Sausages, Potted Meats and Food-stuffs were made were visited. In each case the utensils were found to be clean, the occupiers trying to produce these food-stuffs as cleanly as possible.

During the year I submitted a report on the Private Slaughter-houses in the Borough. They were also visited by a Sub-Committee.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

We have on our Register the following workshops—94, and 5 workplaces, viz.,—Kitchens of Restaurants, 4, Livery Stable Yard, 1.

One hundred and fifty-eight visits have been paid under the above Act, and several defects were noted and improvements effected. Four notices were served; in other cases the owners' or occupiers' attention was directed to the defects observed. Four complaints respecting defects in Factories were received from H.M. Inspector, which were attended to. A report on the water supplies at two factories in which over 25 persons were employed was submitted.

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS AND MILK-SHOPS ORDER, 1885, AND REGULATIONS, 1907.

We have on our Register 119 Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers.

During the year 184 inspections were made. Four Farmers supply Milk in our Borough from an adjoining district. Five applications for Registration as Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers have been received during the year, four being registered. The Cow-keepers registered are using premises previously occupied by Registered Cow-keepers. Some premises have been relet, the occupiers being exempt from registration, not being Milk-sellers.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Fifty-two houses were specially reported upon under this Act. Seven back-to-back dwelling-houses were closed for human habitation and converted into a motor garage, also three were converted into a store-room and stable. Work required to be done to others will be attended to when new dwellings are erected. Other areas have been specially visited and reports given upon the houses in these areas. Until new houses are built, the problem is where to house the displaced occupants, if their houses are closed or converted into through houses. Several of our back-to-back houses can be converted into through houses, which will make them satisfactory. Along with these alterations, in other cases, houses will be required to be taken down to relieve the congestion and improve the light and ventilation. The houses in one area in the centre of the town should be entirely removed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Two hundred and sixty-nine visits were made to infected houses, enquiries made as to the cause or origin of the disease, instructions given with regard to the isolation of the infected persons, and disinfection of the infected articles, etc., connected with the disease. Sanitary Pails, Disinfectants, and Carbolic Oil are supplied free. Disinfectant Sawdust is supplied on request to the Schools.

In case the infected person was a child attending School, the School Authorities were informed and instructions given to keep all children from School until the Medical Attendant certified the children to be free from infection. Ninety-one rooms have been disinfected. The houses in which there were Tubercular Diseases were visited, and an offer made to disinfect. Six Books have been fumigated and returned to their owners. As the requests from occupiers of houses for the destruction of mattresses and beds are increasing yearly, and the difficulties of burning them on our tips are great, some other means of destruction should be provided.

STEAM DISINFECTOR AND CLEANSING STATION.

Fumigation of rooms in which have been infectious diseases is carried out by Sulphur Dioxide or Formic Aldehyde Gas. It is now the practice to remove on request or with the consent of the owners, bedding, clothing, etc., after cases of infectious diseases, to the Steam Disinfector for disinfection. During the year 403 articles have been removed, disinfected, and returned to the owners from houses in which had been cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Scabies, Cancer, Phthisis, and Scarlet Fever. Several parcels of Soldiers' clothes have also been disinfected. One hundred and seven Baths have been given at the Cleansing station.

I have visited each part of the Borough, and am well acquainted with the Sanitary condition of the differently constructed Privies and Ash-pits. On account of difficulty of getting material and shortage of labour the work of converting pails to water closets has not been carried out as I would have liked. The weekly and bi-weekly collection of shop refuse in the central portion of the town has been well

sustained, and I think has given general satisfaction. A few complaints have been received respecting charges for trade refuse, but when it is considered that a charge must be made, and this refuse is being removed at low cost, I do not see how these complaints will be avoided. Refuse from Shops and the Market Ground has greatly increased during the year, from the former on account of "Wartime" Collectors having discontinued removing it and the latter by the increased quantity of vegetable refuse made. This, along with the poor quality of coals being used and the reduction in the hours worked by our men, which after allowing for time formerly granted for holidays equals fifty-two days of nine hours each per annum, has greatly retarded the efficient working of the cleansing department, and in future, if the work has to be done in a thorough and satisfactory manner, extra men and horses or other means of transport will be required.

The following is the number of the various types of closets, ash-pits, etc. in the Borough (this does not include isolated houses or several of our farm houses in the outlying districts, which are emptied by the tenants themselves).

We have the following :—

Fixed Ash-pits in combination with Privies...	12
Fixed Ash-pits not in connection with Privies	157
Moveable receptacles of galvanized iron, with covers 	1644
Other moveable receptacles, boxes, buckets, casks, etc. (this is a varying quantity) ...	2894
Tippler Closets 	448
Pail Closets 	2563
Fresh Water Closets on Town's Water supply	1245
Houses, Shops and Chapels 	150
Cesspools and Privies (7 abolished) 	52

Your Sanitary Inspector gratefully recognises the valuable assistance he has received from the Chairman (Mr. Alderman J. H. Lord, J.P.) and Members of the Health Committee during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. BARNES,

A.M.R.S., Inst. (by exam.) ; Dip. R.I.P.H. ; Member San.
Inspectors' Assoc. ; Hons. Certs. Plumbing, Hygiene, etc.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.